



Record crowds are expected to take to the air and roads for Thanksgiving

By DAVID KOENIG
AP Airlines Writer

DALLAS (AP) — Despite inflation and memories of past holiday travel meltdowns, millions of people are expected to hit airports and highways in record numbers over the Thanksgiving break.

The busiest days to fly will be Tuesday and Wednesday as well as the Sunday after Thanksgiving. The Transportation Security Administration expects to screen 2.6 million passengers on Tuesday and 2.7 million passengers on Wednesday. Sunday will draw the largest crowds with an estimated 2.9 million passengers, which would narrowly eclipse a record set on June 30.



Travellers queue up to check in at the Southwest Airlines counter at Denver International Airport on Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Denver.

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Associated Press



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Record crowds are expected to take to the air and roads for Thanksgiving

Continued from Front

Meanwhile, AAA forecasts that 55.4 million Americans will travel at least 50 miles from home between next Wednesday and the Sunday after Thanksgiving, with roads likely to be the most clogged on Wednesday.

The weather could snarl air and road traffic. A storm system was expected to move from the southern Plains to the Northeast on Tuesday and Wednesday, bringing possible thunderstorms, sleet and snow. Parts of Maine, Vermont and northern New Hampshire are expected to get 3 to 7 inches (7 to 17 centimeters) of snow between Tuesday night and Wednesday. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said during a news conference Monday that the government has tried to better prepare for holiday travel over the last year by hiring more air traffic controllers, opening new air routes along the East Coast and providing grants to airports for snowplows and deicing equipment. But he warned travelers to check road conditions and flight times before leaving home.

"Mother Nature, of course, is the X factor in all of this," he said.

The good news for travelers by plane and car alike: Prices are coming down.

Airfares are averaging \$268 per ticket, down 14% from a year ago, according to the travel site Hopper.

Gasoline prices are down about 45 cents a gallon from this time last year. The national average was \$3.30 per gallon on Monday, according to AAA, down from \$3.67 a year ago.

A survey of GasBuddy users found that despite cheaper pump prices, the number of people plan-



Travellers queue up to pass through the south security checkpoint at Denver International Airport, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Denver.

Associated Press

ning to take a long driving trip this Thanksgiving hasn't changed much from last year. Patrick De Haan, an analyst for the price-tracking service, said inflation has cooled but some things like food are still getting more expensive. Consumers are also charging more on credit cards and saving less.

"Sure, they love the falling gas prices, but a lot of Americans spent in other ways this summer and they may not be ready to open their wallets for Thanksgiving travel just yet," De Haan said.

Thanksgiving marks the start of the holiday travel season, and many still haven't shaken last December's nightmare before Christmas, when severe winter storms knocked out thousands of flights and left millions of

passengers stranded. Scott Keyes, founder of the travel site Going, is cautiously optimistic that holiday air travel won't be the same mess. So far this year, he said, airlines have avoided massive disruptions. "Everyone understands that airlines can't control Mother Nature and it's unsafe to take off or land in the middle of a thunderstorm or snowstorm," Keyes said. "What really irks people are the controllable cancellations — those widespread disruptions because the airline couldn't get their act together because their system melted down the way Southwest did over Christmas."

Indeed, Southwest didn't recover as quickly as other carriers from last year's storm when its planes, pilots and flight attendants were

trapped out of position and its crew-rescheduling system got bogged down. The airline canceled nearly 17,000 flights before fixing the operation. Federal regulators told Southwest recently that it could be fined for failing to help stranded travelers.

Southwest officials say they have since purchased additional deicing trucks and heating equipment and will add staff at cold-weather airports depending on the forecast. The company said it has also updated its crew-scheduling technology.

U.S. airlines as a whole have been better about stranding passengers. Through October, they canceled 38% fewer flights than during the same period in 2022. From June through August — when thunderstorms can

snarl air traffic — the rate of cancellations fell 18% compared to 2022.

Even still, consumer complaints about airline service have soared, according to the U.S. Department of Transportation. There have been so many complaints, the agency says, that it has only compiled figures through May.

The airlines, in turn, have heaped blame on the Federal Aviation Administration, which they say can't keep up with the growing air traffic. In fact, the Transportation Department's inspector general reported this summer that the FAA has made only "limited efforts" to fix a shortage of air traffic controllers, especially at key facilities in New York, Miami and Jacksonville, Florida. Meanwhile, staffing levels in other parts of the airline industry have largely recovered since the pandemic. After shedding tens of thousands of workers early on, airlines have been on a hiring spree since late 2020. Passenger airlines have added more than 140,000 workers — an increase of nearly 40% — according to government figures updated last week. The number of people working in the business is the largest since 2001, when there were many more airlines.

Airlines are using their expanded work forces to operate more flights. Southwest is the most aggressive among the big carriers, planning to offer 13% more seats over Thanksgiving than it did during the comparable five-day stretch last year, according to travel data provider Cirium. United and Delta are growing 8% each. American will grow a more modest 5% but still have the largest number of seats. □

As 2023 draws to close, Biden's promised visit to Africa shows no signs of happening yet

By JOSH BOAK and CHRIS MEGERIAN

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden promised to visit Africa this year, but 2023 is drawing to a close with no trip in sight yet. Nor has Biden given any public indication he plans to attend the U.N. climate change conference that starts next week in Dubai.

U.S. presidents tend to reveal their priorities through their calendars. Biden has pledged a closer relationship with African countries. He similarly has stressed the importance of global leadership on climate change. Presidential trips can come together very quickly if necessary. Biden has pulled off last-minute trips to Israel and Vietnam as well as a secretive journey to Ukraine. But the travel deadline is getting tight and there have been no obvious signs of preparation.

Staring down what could be a tough 2024 reelection campaign, Biden is juggling a mix of other domestic and foreign concerns. Africa seems to have been pushed to the back burner despite effusive claims that Biden made last December at a Washington summit with 49 leaders that it would be a strategic focus as the U.S. made political and financial commitments.

"I'm eager to visit your continent," Biden said at the summit almost a year ago. "I'm looking forward to seeing many of you in your home countries."

Mvemba Dizolele, director of the Africa Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that if Biden failed to go to the continent this year, it "kills the momentum quite a bit."

"It was a crescendo, and then we leave our potential partners in Africa hanging," he said. "What are they supposed to make of this?"

Others saw the possible trip as largely symbolic in any event, having little impact



President Joe Biden speaks after pardoning the national Thanksgiving turkey, during a ceremony at the White House in Washington, Nov. 20, 2023.

Associated Press

with African leaders.

Such visits are often made as a political gesture "to make people feel good," said Jideofor Adibe, a professor of political science and international relations at Nigeria's Nasarawa State University.

Rather than look for state visits, Africa should use its increasing global appeal as evidenced by the African Union's new membership in the Group of 20 leading economies - "to put its house in order and make effective representation in a manner that will amplify African voices," he said.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby said this week he had no updates on when the president might go to Africa. Administration officials declined to preview any trip plans after The Associated Press separately asked, but they did stress Biden's commitment to reducing fossil fuel usage and hopes for a productive climate summit. Biden has been through a hectic year and that has made planning for travel difficult.

The president just met with Chinese President Xi Jinping and attended a summit of Asian Pacific leaders in California. Strikes by autoworkers and Hollywood writers and actors were just settled. Biden is ramping up his reelection campaign and facing the risk of a federal government shutdown at the start of next year. In addition, he's dealing with wars on two continents, with the Russian invasion

of Ukraine and fighting between Israel and Hamas. "At some level, the crisis in the Middle East, combined with the ongoing Ukraine crisis, offers a little bit of an

alibi," said Daniel Russel, vice president for international security and diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute. Biden went to the 2021 U.N. climate change summit in Glasgow, Scotland, and the 2022 climate conference in Egypt. Officials involved in preparations for the 2023 summit seemed to acknowledge that world leaders this year were confronting an array of challenges because of the wars.

U.N. Environment Programme Director Inger Andersen said the agency would like to have as many heads of state as possible at negotiations but "we all understand the pres-

ures and other crises that are happening across the world."

She said the U.S.-China climate agreement struck earlier this month is a good beginning and that both countries have veteran climate envoys so that will compensate.

Still, the idea that Biden might skip the Dubai summit was stinging to some.

"Joe Biden claims to be a champion when it comes to the environment but from Africa, where I am, it looks cowardly and cruel," said Mohamed Adow, director of Power Shift Africa. "We need to see our green political champions stepping up and pushing each other to act." □

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In wake of Voting Rights Act ruling, North Dakota to appeal decision that protected tribes' rights

By JACK DURA

Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A day after a federal appeals court dealt a significant blow to the Voting Rights Act, North Dakota's top election official announced Tuesday that he wants the court to review a judge's recent ruling that protected two Native American tribes' voting rights. Voting rights groups had hailed U.S. District Chief Judge Peter Welte's ruling Friday that the tribes' voting rights were unlawfully diluted by a 2021 legislative redistricting map. But, in an unrelated lawsuit Monday, the 8th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that private individuals and groups such as the NAACP do not have the ability to sue under a key section of the Voting Rights Act. In announcing his intention to appeal Welte's ruling, Republican Secretary of State Michael Howe specifically cited Monday's 2-1 ruling by the appeals court



North Dakota Secretary of State Michael Howe, left, and Attorney General Drew Wrigley, right, converse with State Treasurer Thomas Beadle, unseen, before a meeting at the state Capitol, Sept. 29, 2023, in Bismarck, N.D.

Associated Press

panel, which is based in St. Louis and has jurisdiction over seven states, including North Dakota. It is unclear whether the same panel of three judges would hear the North Dakota case. Republican Attorney General Drew Wrigley on Mon-

day said the appeals court ruling "is an interesting and timely development" as state officials and legislative leaders pondered their next steps as to the Friday ruling. A spokesperson said he wasn't immediately available for comment but

would follow up.

The Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians, the Spirit Lake Tribe and three tribal members sued last year, seeking a joint district for the two tribes. They alleged the 2021 map "simultaneously packs Turtle Mountain

Band of Chippewa Indians members into one house district, and cracks Spirit Lake Tribe members out of any majority Native house district."

Welte had ruled last week that the 2021 map "prevents Native American voters from having an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice" a violation of Section 2, a provision of the Voting Rights Act that "prohibits voting practices or procedures that discriminate on the basis of race, color" or membership of certain language minority groups, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

But the 8th Circuit decision did not address the exact claim the tribes brought, according to Jason Marisam, an associate professor at the Mitchell Hamline School of Law and a former Minnesota assistant attorney general who has handled election and voting issues. □

Navy plane overshoots runway and ends up in ocean, but all 9 aboard escape unharmed

By AUDREY McAVOY and BEATRICE DUPUY

Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — A Navy plane flying in rainy weather overshoot a runway Monday at a military base in Hawaii and splashed into Kaneohe Bay, but all nine aboard were uninjured, authorities said. The Coast Guard responded, but rescue operations were quickly called off, said Petty Officer Ryan Fisher, a Coast Guard spokesperson. "It sounds like all parties involved were rescued," he said. Marine Corps spokesperson Gunnery Sgt. Orlando Perez had no information about what caused the P-8A aircraft to go off the runway at Marine Corps Base Hawaii. A photo taken by witness

Diane Dircks showed the plane in water just offshore, a sight reminiscent of the 2009 "Miracle on the Hudson" when a passenger jet piloted by Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger made an emergency landing on the

New York river. All 155 people aboard survived. The P-8A and the Airbus A320 that Sullenberger piloted are roughly the same size. Dircks and her family had just returned to the dock af-

ter rainy weather cut their pontoon boat trip short when her daughter noticed the plane in the water. "We went running over to the end of the dock, and I took some pictures," she said.

Dircks, who is visiting from Illinois, said her daughter keeps a pair of binoculars on her for birdwatching, so she was able to see the plane and the rescue boats arriving. "It was unbelievable," she said.

The Honolulu Fire Department received a 911 call for a downed aircraft shortly after 2 p.m., spokesperson Malcolm K. Medrano said in an email. It was cloudy and rainy at the time. Visibility was about 1 mile (1.6 kilometers), said Thomas Vaughan, a Na-

tional Weather Service meteorologist in Honolulu.

The P-8A is often used to hunt for submarines and for reconnaissance and intelligence gathering. It is manufactured by Boeing and shares many parts with the 737 commercial jet.

The plane belongs to the Skinny Dragons of Patrol Squadron 4 stationed at Whidbey Island in Washington state. Patrol squadrons were once based at Kaneohe Bay, but now deploy to Hawaii on a rotational basis.

Marine Corps Base Hawaii is about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from Honolulu on Oahu. The base houses about 9,300 military personnel and 5,100 family members. It's one of several key military installations on Oahu. □



A downed U.S. Navy aircraft is seen in Kaneohe Bay, Monday, Nov. 20, 2023, in Kaneohe, Hawaii.

Associated Press

Gaza health officials say they lost the ability to count dead as Israeli offensive intensifies

By ISABEL DEBRE

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian health officials in Gaza said Tuesday that they have lost the ability to count the dead because of the collapse of parts of the enclave's health system and the difficulty of retrieving bodies from areas overrun by Israeli tanks and troops.

The Health Ministry in Hamas-controlled Gaza, which carefully tracked casualties over the first five weeks of war, gave its most recent death toll of 11,078 on Nov. 10. The United Nations humanitarian office, which cites the Health Ministry death toll in its regular reports, still refers to 11,078 as the last verified death toll from the war.

The challenges involved in verifying the number of dead have mounted as Israel's ground invasion has intensified and at times severed phone and internet service and sown chaos across the territory.

"Unfortunately, the Ministry of Health has not yet been able to issue its statistics because there is a breakdown in communication between hospitals and disruption to the internet," ministry spokesman Ashraf al-Qidra told The Associ-



Palestinians pray for their relatives killed in the Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip in front of the morgue of al Aqsa Hospital in Deir al Balah, Gaza Strip, Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023.

Associated Press

ated Press. The electronic database that health authorities use to compile casualties from hospitals "is no longer able to count the names and tally the statistics," he said.

Al-Qidra said the ministry was trying to restart the program and resume communication with hospitals. Medics say it's far too dangerous now to recover the untold scores of dead bodies in Gaza City, where Israeli bulldozers have blocked streets and tanks

fire at anything in their path. Officials at the Health Ministry, long seen as the most reliable local source for casualties, said they believe the death toll has jumped sharply in the past week based on doctors' estimates after airstrikes on densely populated neighborhoods and reports from families about missing loved ones. But they said it had become virtually impossible to arrive at a precise number of victims.

"No one has correct num-

bers, that's not possible anymore," Health Ministry official Mehdat Abbas said. "People are thrown in the streets. They're under the rubble. Who can count the bodies and release the death toll in a press conference?"

Abbas' comments appeared to be a dig at the Health Ministry in the occupied West Bank, where the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority, a rival of Hamas, administers autonomous enclaves.

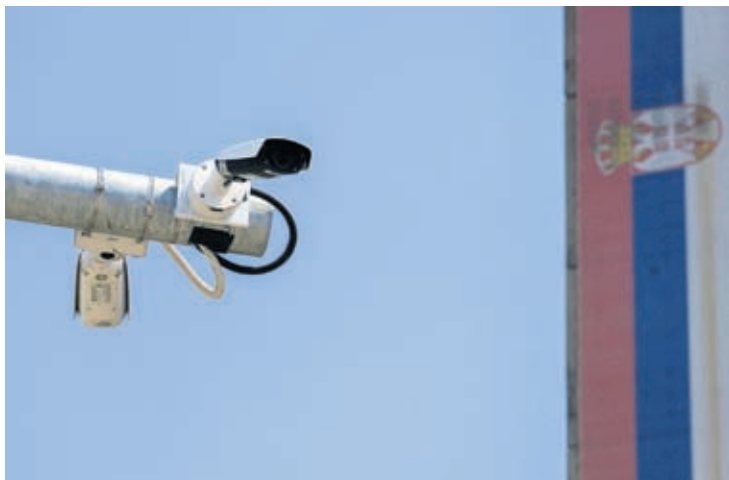
The West Bank ministry in Ramallah gave similar casualty counts to its counterpart in Gaza over the first five weeks of war. But after the Gaza ministry stopped counting, health authorities in Ramallah kept releasing regular reports with death tolls most recently 13,300 without discussing their methodology. U.N. agencies said they could not verify the West Bank ministry's numbers.

The Health Ministry in the West Bank stopped providing its own count Tuesday without giving a reason. Because of that, and because officials there declined to explain in detail how they tracked deaths after Nov. 11, the AP decided to stop reporting the West Bank count.

Authorities in Gaza said they could not account for how the West Bank's Health Ministry tallied the numbers. Al-Qidra described the figures released by the Ramallah-based ministry as "personal statistics" unrelated to Gaza's ministry.

"If someone is sitting in an air-conditioned office, he can say whatever he wants," Abbas said. "But if you come to the field here, no one can work between tanks to count how many people are killed." □

Serbia and Croatia expel diplomats and further strain relations between the Balkan neighbors



Security cameras are seen in front of a Serbian flag in Belgrade, Serbia, Monday, Aug. 15, 2022.

Associated Press

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP) — Serbia and Croatia each have expelled a diplomat from the other country, a move that further strains relations between the two former wartime foes and Balkan rivals.

The Serbian Foreign Affairs Ministry said Monday that the first secretary of the Croatian Embassy in Belgrade was proclaimed persona non grata for his alleged "gross stepping outside the framework of diplomatic norms" during his service.

In a reciprocal move, Croatia expelled a Serbian diplomat on Tuesday.

"We have decided that the adviser of the Embassy of Serbia in Croatia, Petar Novakovic, should be declared persona non grata in Croatia," Croatia's Foreign Minister Gordan Grlic Radman said.

Media close to the populist Serbian government said the Croatian diplomat, identified as Hrvoje Snajder, is accused of "spying activities" and "recruiting" of people for Croatian secret services.

The Croatian Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs rejected the grounds for the diplomat's expulsion and called Serbia's action "a step toward the deterioration of mutual relations" at a time "when the stability of southeastern Europe is of exceptional importance for the whole of Europe." □

South African leader accuses Israel of war crimes. Putin and Xi strike more cautious note at meeting

By GERALD IMRAY

Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa

(AP) — South African President Cyril Ramaphosa accused Israel of war crimes and acts “tantamount to genocide” in Gaza during a virtual meeting Tuesday of leaders of developing countries, including Russia’s Vladimir Putin and China’s Xi Jinping.

Ramaphosa also condemned Hamas for its attack on Israeli civilians that sparked the war in Gaza and said both sides were guilty of violating international law.

“The collective punishment of Palestinian civilians through the unlawful use of force by Israel is a war crime,” Ramaphosa said at the start of the meeting of leaders and top diplomats from the BRICS bloc of countries. “The deliberate denial of medicine, fuel, food and water to the residents of Gaza is tantamount to genocide.”

“In its attacks on civilians and by taking hostages, Hamas has also violated international law and must be held accountable for



In this image made from video supplied by South Africa’s Presidency, South African President Cyril Ramaphosa addresses BRICS leaders for a virtual meeting of leaders of developing countries Tuesday, Nov. 21, 2023.

these actions,” Ramaphosa said.

Putin and Xi struck more cautious notes, calling for a cease-fire and the release of civilian hostages but not launching the same level of criticism of either side as Ramaphosa.

Also joining the meeting were leaders and officials

from fellow BRICS members Brazil and India, and from Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the United Arab Emirates, which are set to join the bloc in January.

Ramaphosa chaired the “extraordinary meeting” and made the opening remarks because of South

Africa’s position as current chair of BRICS.

Putin said there was a “humanitarian catastrophe” unfolding in Gaza and it was “shocking to watch how surgeries are performed on children without anesthesia.” He again blamed the crisis on what he called failed diplomacy

by the United States.

“All these events, in fact, are a direct consequence of the U.S. desire to monopolize mediation functions in the Palestinian-Israeli settlement,” Putin said while appearing on teleconference from the Kremlin. He called for a cease-fire in Gaza, the freeing of hostages and the evacuation of civilians from the Gaza Strip.

Putin’s comments were in line with Russia’s careful approach to the Israel-Hamas war, which may present an opportunity for it to advance its role as a global power broker. Putin proposed last month that Moscow could mediate in the conflict due to its relationships with both Israel and the Palestinians. He said Tuesday that the BRICS bloc could play “a key role” in finding a political settlement.

Putin has condemned the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas militants on towns in southern Israel that led to Israel’s offensive in Gaza, now in its seventh week, while warning Israel over its response and against blockading the Gaza Strip. □

Associated Press

UN warns food aid for 1.4 million refugees in Chad could end over limited funding

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) —

Food assistance to 1.4 million refugees in Chad who fled the conflict in parts of the Sahel could end because of limited funding, the United Nations food agency warned Tuesday.

Most of the refugees escaped the war in Sudan and crossed into Chad in the last six months in numbers not seen in the last 20 years, the U.N.’s World Food Program said in a statement. “This forgotten crisis has metastasized as the world’s eyes are on other emergencies. We cannot let the world stand and allow our life-saving operations grind to a halt

in Chad,” said Pierre Honnorat, WFP’s country director in Chad. Sudan plunged into conflict in April when long-simmering tensions escalated between the country’s military and the rival Rapid Support Forces, resulting in the death of more than 5,000 people and displacement of at least 5.2 million people amid reports of mass killings, rapes, and widespread destruction, according to the U.N.

Many of the displaced found their way to neighboring Chad, piling pressure on the already impoverished country as it becomes host to one of the largest and fastest-growing refugee populations in Africa, the WFP said.

“Collectively we must find a way to support the women, children and men who are bearing the full brunt of this crisis. Cutting our assistance is simply not an option because it will have untold consequences for millions of people, jeopardizing years of investment in fighting hunger and malnutrition in Chad,” Honnorat said. The WFP said that malnutrition is a major concern, with nine in 10 new arrivals reporting “poor or borderline food consumption.”

Honnorat said the WFP urgently needs \$185 million to continue its support to crisis-affected populations in Chad over the next six months. In the absence of that funding, he said, the

agency is being forced to make “brutal choices” to prioritize certain needs and groups. “In December, WFP will be forced to suspend assistance to in-

ternally displaced people and refugees from Nigeria, Central African Republic, and Cameroon due to insufficient funds,” Honnorat said. □



Sudanese refugees gather outside a field hospital in Acre, Chad, Aug. 15, 2023.

Associated Press

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The Grand Fish Restaurant has an extraordinary menu starting with appetizers, salads and their famous fish soup. The entree dishes consist of a variety of fresh fish like whole red snapper, fish steak, fish cake, grilled salmon, mixed seafood or seafood rice (paella local style) combined with sides of vegetables, french fries, rice, plantain, the island's traditional 'pan bati' (slapped bread) or funchi (cornmeal cake).

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Papiamento words and phrases you may want to know!



(Oranjestad)—Aruba is a potting melt of different nationalities, cultures and languages. Primarily for this reason, the average Aruban can understand and speak Dutch, English and Spanish relatively well. However, as much as we pride ourselves in being able to communicate with almost everyone, we cherish our native tongue Papiamento above all else. Want to learn some common words in our language? Here are a few basic words and phrases that can get you a hat tip from an Aruban.

When you arrive at the airport in Aruba, one of the first words in Papiamento you may encounter is "Bon bini." Bon bini in Papiamento means welcome, and is probably the most famous Papiamento word for tourists.

Hi! Bye!

To be fair, there is no unique way to say "hello" in Papiamento. At least, not officially. We often just use the English "hello" or "hey", or Dutch "hallo" to greet someone. We do however, always follow it up with "con bay?" or "con ta?" Con bay is a shortened version of "con ta bay?", which essentially means "how are you?"

The word "con" in Papiamento means "how?" and is pronounced with a rounder "o" sounds, like in the English word "cone". "Ta bay" refers to how you are doing.

When we say goodbye, we use the word "ayo" (not like the Ayo Rock Formation, but also...kinda?). We may also use "te oro", which means "see you later".

Greetings during the day

Most, if not all, languages have different ways to greet according to the time of day, and Papiamento is no different. Since Papiamento is heavily influenced from Portuguese and Spanish, some of these phrases may look very familiar.

1. Bon dia is used in the morning, up to about noon. Bon dia essentially means good morning. The word "bon" means "good", and while "dia" does not directly mean "morning" in English, it is used often to refer to the morning time.
2. Bon tardi. In the afternoon to early evening hours, we use "bon tardi" to greet people, which means "good afternoon". "Tardi" actually comes from the word "atardi", which directly translates to "afternoon". However, the shortened "tardi" is used to keep the rhythm on the phrase. And the same could be said for our last greeting of the day.
3. Bon noch. You guessed it, "bon noch" means "good night". Just like "tardi", "noch" is actually the shortened version of the word "anochi".

Yes...no...maybe?

The affirmative and negative expression is very simple in Papiamento. Just like Spanish, our yeses are "si" and our no's are "no". Pretty easy right? If you want to gain some extra points from younger locals, you can also say "se", which is a more casual affirmative used mostly by the younger generation. However, do note: some older generations may find this improper and not respectful, so keep that in mind.

Thanks man...

Lastly, a word that we can also say more often is "danki", which means literally "thank you". "Danki" is derived from the Dutch word "bedankt". Though we don't really have a translation for "I appreciate it" in English, we do use "masha danki" to convey the message. "Masha" means "a lot" or "very", so "masha danki" means "thank you very much". □

PO-KÈ ONO
By Uncle Cross

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Annatto and the red people

Every week, Etnia Nativa unveils a new episode regarding cultural heritage, focusing on native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of defending Aruba's true beating heart. It connects the reader with that mystical aspect of the island's culture and traditions, encouraging all to interact with our unique environment.

This episode's all about a tree present in the island's gardens known by Arubans as Rucu, pronunciation in English "Roo-koo". Also referred to as "Annatto", "Achiote" or "Onoto" -scientific name: Bixa Orellana L. Their seeds have been used and applied by different indigenous communities of tropical American countries for several cosmetic, decorative, and culinary applications, while studies indicate their potential use as an active ingredient in pharmaceutical products.

It is a tree species with origins in the intertropical botanical regions of America. A tree cultivated in Mexico, Central America, Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, the Andes of Peru, and Venezuela, it can measure up to 4

meters in height, has oval leaves, and its fruit is a capsule, which opens ovoid-touching spiny reds when ripe. It is a spectacular tree when it is loaded with fruits. Native people from our island were the first to use its seeds by macerating them into a red pigment mass used as body decorating paint; they also used it as facial makeup and hair starch, as insect repellent, and as a savory in their meals. Annatto is known as the poor man's saffron since it has the same color as it but is not similar in flavor. Today, the seeds are heated in oil or lard to extract their dye and flavor for use in dishes and processed foods such as cheese, butter, soup, gravy, sauces, cured meats, and other consumer products. The seeds impart a subtle flavor and aroma, and a yellow-to-reddish-orange color enhances the food. To get the color out of its seeds, you have to crush them and spend a

Episode CCXXXIII - 233

while in hot oil or boil them in water. After obtaining the desired color, we must discard the seeds since only the content is necessary for the pigment elaboration. This must be ground into a powder to obtain the desired final product from the seeds.

The crushed seeds or the oil of Annatto (Bixa orellana L.) extract is referred to as an excellent skin healer as well as a formidable anti-inflammatory and protector against herpes zoster.

The crushed Annatto leaf infusion has been reported in indigenous medicine books as an antidiarrheal, tonic, digestive, mild laxative, diuretic, pain reliever caused by inflammation of hemorrhoids, and, as I told you previously, it heals the liver. It is a rich antioxidant and liver cleanser. In some South American countries, it is recommended to boil Annatto roots and drink its water to relieve hepatitis. The tropical climate greatly favors this species; therefore, countries with this climate as Brazil, Venezuela, Nicaragua, etc. are small producers of it.

When fruits are ripening, they open in two, and this is the perfect time to collect their seeds, extract them from the husk, and let them dry in the sun for approximately 4 days. The drying process is very important so that the coloring matter can be cured. These small triangular or heart-shaped seeds are intense brick red in color, and their flavor is reminiscent of bitter clay, very light and pleasant.

So if you are interested in really getting to know the flora, fauna, geology, history, and autochthonous art, as well as the true identity of the island, book a visit to Etnia Nativa, a unique native gem! Let Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, guide and lecture you regarding the most interesting and revealing stories about Aruba's undiscovered Etnia Nativa, an adventure beyond beaches and tourist traps. Visit his magnificent dwelling that integrates natural and reused materials, bursting with culture and island heritage, and you'll love Aruba beyond beaches!

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History of fishing in Aruba

ORANJESTAD — Fishing has been a family tradition for ages in Aruba. Our ancestors used to fish for a living. Even though nowadays you don't see them often we still have some passionate fishermen on the island that go out every day in search for fish to feed their families and serve our local market. One of these fisherman is Gregory Wernet.

The so-called Continental Bank between Aruba and the opposite coast reaches a depth of about 650 feet. The sea is very rich in fish here. Since the time of the indigenous native people fish and other sea creatures such as turtles, octopus squids, conch and many type of crustaceans have formed a means of subsistence for the native Aruban inhabitants. Especially along the west coast of the island where the fishing grounds are settlements of fishermen. Until the arrival of the oil industry Aruban fishermen could supply Aruba's wants.

As a source of income, however, fishing did not amount too much. In the beginning of the 1900's approximately 160 people earn their living in this branch of this industry. Rancho, which stands for a shed, nowadays east Oranjestad, was the head quarter and remains the

fishermen's settlement. Savaneta, Noord, Santa Cruz all had their fishermen's villages. At a rough estimate there were about a hundred small fishing boats during that time.

The Arubans were mainly engaged in coastal fishing, using rowing-boats or small sailing-boats, and lines or dragnets and canisters in shallow water. When fishing with deep-sea lines just over the bottom of the sea the boat is kept in place by means of a piece of rock serving as an anchor. The two most important species of fish by far caught in this manner are the pargo or red snappers and a variety of groupers like the mero, jeanpao and the wowo di boyo.

Cruising off the coast the Aruban fisherman patiently waits for a fish willing to snap at the bait on the drag-line, in nets and traps. Veritable giants are sometimes caught. Barracudas weigh from 9 to 44 pounds and measure from 3 to almost 7 feet. The king-fish has a weight from 22 to 44 pounds; the moclat may tip the scales at 155, whilst garfish, having a length of nine feet, weigh over 132 pounds.

Most fish caught is used for their own consumption, to feed their families and



some are being sold in the market to local restaurants.

Fisherman Gregory Wernet

Gregory Wernet is a well-known fisherman from Santa Cruz. His father taught him fishing when he was a small child. Gregory has two sons, Jordan and Jordanny, which he taught fishing too, when they were only 3 years old and he takes them fishing with him. Fishing has been a family tradition for quite a long time and even his grandson Willvion of 7 years old is following his grandfather steps. This is the sixth generation of fishermen in their family.

They go deep sea fishing.

There they catch red snapper, grouper and amberjack. They usually fish for 15 hours a day, but now due to the covid-19 measurements they go fishing from 5 in the morning until 8 o'clock at night or even sometimes from 8 at night till 5 in the morning. The day before they prepare all their fishing tools such as the Lines, lures, spears, and load their boat with fishing reels, batteries, fill the gasoline tank, lights and some food and beverages. For bait he uses sardines, squid and the small fish known in Aruba as piskechi. The have two boats they use for fishing. 'Virgen del Valle' which is parked at the pier by the Seaport and

'Padrot' which they have at home.

The fish they catch they take home to their families and they also sell it to their clients. Gregory is proud to be a fisherman. It is a honest and humble job but with it he is able to feed his family even during hard times. It is a very dangerous job and you have to spend many hours on the sea, waiting patiently and risking your life while fighting a big fish and big waves but the adrenaline it brings with it but also just sitting there listening to the sound of the waves and enjoying the marvelous view that nature has to offer is all worth it. □

Source: Etnia Nativa



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Lebanon bonus
- 7 Racket
- 11 Like lemon juice
- 12 Infant's spot
- 13 Colombia's capital
- 14 Hindu hero
- 15 Germany's capital
- 17 Whittle down
- 20 Fossil resin
- 23 Stop — dime
- 24 Poster color
- 26 Bro's sibling
- 27 Little jump
- 28 Hosp. workers
- 29 Josephine, for one
- 31 Tear
- 32 Bank subtraction
- 33 Potato parts
- 34 Steered clear of
- 37 Farm unit
- 39 Paper worker
- 43 Cruise stop

DOWN

- 1 Fare carrier
- 2 Green prefix
- 3 Use a spade
- 4 Sun-dried brick
- 5 Ceremony
- 6 Fight memento
- 7 Be frugal
- 8 Reddish fruit
- 9 Objective
- 10 CEO's deg.
- 16 Reading aids
- 17 Did some modeling
- 18 Cartoon genre
- 19 Reddish fruit
- 21 Bert's pal
- 22 Coarse files
- 24 Letter before iota
- 25 Dawn goddess
- 30 Metal fasteners
- 33 Decree
- 35 Profound
- 36 Writer Buchanan
- 37 Fitting
- 38 Dove call
- 40 Infant
- 41 Mine output
- 42 Wine choice



Yesterday's answer



AXDYI, BAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

11-22

CRYPTOQUOTE

DST YXBZ DSFD AUBVQ LXWG
DGWT CFKUAL UQ BXD XBT
XC YAXXZ, YWD XC GTQOTRD
FBZ IXL UB TFRS XDSTG'Q

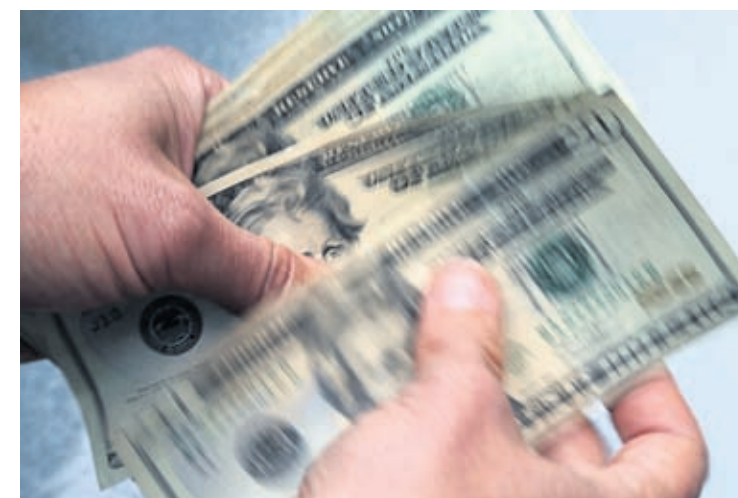
AUCT. — GURSEFGZ YFRS

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: HUMANS MERELY SHARE THE EARTH. WE CAN ONLY PROTECT THE LAND, NOT OWN IT. — CHIEF SEATTLE

Millennial Money: How to set good money examples for kids

By SARA RATHNER of Nerd-Wallet

Kids notice everything, whether you think they're paying attention or not. They repeat the curse words you blurt out when you step on a toy, and spill your embarrassing family secrets to their friends. From a surprisingly early age, the kids in your life also notice money: who has it, who doesn't, and how your household handles it compared to other people. They overhear arguments and pick up on stress. With every financial decision, you set an example. "You are a mirror and your kid is a sponge," says Jordan Wexler, co-founder and CEO of EarlyBird, a registered investment advisory company where parents can open custodial and college savings accounts for their kids. So, no pressure, but modeling positive money behavior for all the kids in your life is important, whether you're a parent, relative or close family friend. It starts with figuring out your own approach to money, and then providing age-appropriate lessons.



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, twenty dollar bills are counted in North Andover, Mass.

Associated Press

ESTABLISH YOUR HOUSEHOLD VALUES
It's hard to teach another person how to spend, save

and donate money when you haven't set your own goals and priorities. Maybe you want to set an annual budget for charitable giving, or you save slowly for upcoming expenses to avoid credit card debt. All of these decisions tie back to what you (and your spouse or partner if you have one) truly value.□

IRS delays reporting rules for users of Venmo, Cash App and other payment apps



A sign outside the Internal Revenue Service building is seen, May 4, 2021, in Washington.

Associated Press

By FATIMA HUSSEIN
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Users of Venmo, Cash App and other payment apps will get a tax reprieve this year. The IRS announced Tuesday it will delay implementing new reporting requirements that were to take effect for the upcoming tax filing season. Originally, app users who made \$600 or more selling goods and services would have been required to report those transactions to the IRS, a new threshold required by the American Rescue Plan passed in March 2021.

Instead, payment apps and online marketplaces will send out separate tax forms called 1099-K documents for taxpayers who receive over \$20,000 and make over 200 transactions selling goods or services.□

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Giving thanks isn't just a holiday tradition. It's part of how humans evolved

By **MADDIE BURAKOFF**
AP Science Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — It's the season of giving thanks and it turns out humans have been doing it for a long, long time.

As more researchers dig into the science of gratitude, they've found the feeling likely played a key role in helping our ancestors band together and survive.

That legacy continues today, as being in the mood for gratitude shapes who we are as a species and how we connect with the people around us.

"This is something that is part of our human DNA," said Sarah Schnitker, a psychologist at Baylor University. "It is a glue, in a sense, that holds us together."

How we got grateful
Humans are social animals. That's how we've lasted so long; not by being the biggest or the strongest, but by figuring out how to work together.

A key part of building relationships is the idea of reciprocity: "If you like me and do nice things for me, then I like you and do nice things for you," said Michael Tomasello, a developmental psychologist at Duke University.

The animal kingdom has some parallel give-and-take behaviors, said Malini Suchak, an animal behavior



A student places her handprint along with those of other students at a primary school in Lufkin, Texas on Tuesday, Nov. 22, 2005.
Associated Press

researcher at Canisius University. In experiments with capuchin monkeys and chimpanzees, Suchak found the primates became more willing to help out a partner if that individual had helped them in the past.

Some scientists think the feeling of gratitude evolved to keep the helping exchanges going. In other words, if you were helped, you'd feel like you should repay the debt with a good deed in return, said Jenae Nelson, who researches gratitude at Baylor and Harvard universities. "This give and take — this is very, very primal and very important to a cooperative society," Nelson said. "Otherwise, you just get a culture of takers."

In animals and in humans, these aren't always one-to-one transactions. Sometimes, an ape that gets groomed by another will later back that partner up in a fight, Suchak said, showing that reciprocity might not be about keeping exact scores, but forming broader emotional ties.

Though we can't "speak chimp" well enough to know if they're actually saying thanks, Suchak added, it makes sense that some form of this social debt showed up early in our lineage.

"It didn't just pop out of nowhere when humans evolved," Suchak said. And how we stayed grateful Thousands of years later, gratitude has taken root in humans. □

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Public Enemy, R.E.M., Blondie, Heart and Tracy Chapman get nods for Songwriters Hall of Fame

By **MARK KENNEDY**

AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Everything from rap to yacht rock, country and alt-rock are represented among the nominees for the 2024 Songwriters Hall of Fame, with nods for Public Enemy, Steely Dan, Bryan Adams, George Clinton, Tracy Chapman, R.E.M., Blondie, Heart and The Doobie Brothers.

The ballot also includes "Footloose" singer-songwriter Kenny Loggins, Nashville hitmaker Hillary Lindsey, who helped write "Girl Crush" for Little Big Town, and producer-writer Timbaland, the mastermind behind Justin Timberlake's "SexyBack" and Missy Elliott's "Get Yer Freak On."

Included on the list are the "Losing My Religion" R.E.M. quartet led by Michael Stipe, as well as sisters Ann and Nancy Wilson of Heart, who showed women could rock hard with songs like "Barracuda" and "Crazy On You."

Joining them is Adams, with radio staples like "Summer



Clem Burke, from left, Debbie Harry and Rob Roth attend a screening of "Blondie: Vivir En La Habana" during the 20th Tribeca Festival in New York on June 16, 2021.

Associated Press

of '69" and "Have You Ever Really Loved a Woman?" and Clinton, whose Parliament-Funkadelic collective was hugely influential with hits like "Atomic Dog" and "Give Up the Funk."

Eligible voting members have until Dec. 27 to turn in ballots with their choices of three nominees from the

songwriter category and three from the performing-songwriter category. The Associated Press got an early copy of the list.

Debbie Harry, Chris Stein and Clem Burke are nominated as Blondie, who gave the world the New Wave hits "Call Me" and "Rapture," and Chapman,

whose "Fast Car," originally released in 1988, won her two Grammys in 1989 and a Country Music Association award this year after being covered by Luke Combs.

Adams, R.E.M., Blondie, The Doobie Brothers and Heart were also nominated last year but didn't make the

final cut. Last year's inductees included Snoop Dogg, Gloria Estefan, Sade, Jeff Lynne, Glen Ballard and Teddy Riley.

The performing songwriters nominees this time include Canadian rock musicians Randy Bachman and Burton Cummings behind "American Woman" and "These Eyes" and The Doobie Brothers Tom Johnston, Patrick Simmons and Michael McDonald with such classics as "Listen to the Music" and "Long Train Runnin.'" David Gates, who sang with the band Bread, is up for a career that includes such songs as "Everything I Own" and "Make It With You," while Public Enemy's Chuck D and Flavor Flav got nods for iconic tunes like "Fight the Power" and "Bring the Noise."

Somewhat surprisingly, Steely Dan co-founded by Donald Fagan and the late Walter Becker are not in the hall despite being a staple of classic rock with songs like "Reelin' in the Years," "Do It Again" and "Hey Nineteen." □

'I Would Meet You Anywhere' is a breathtaking account of an adoptee's search for family

By **DONNA EDWARDS**

Associated Press

Susan Kiyo Ito always knew she was adopted, but uncovering her birth family became a decadeslong process marked by moments of warm connection and icy divides raw stories compiled into a memoir that's alternately touching and heartbreaking.

Opening on the fateful moment when Ito is about to meet her birth mother for the first time, "I Would Meet You Anywhere" transcends a title and becomes a refrain throughout the book. Ito's relationship with Yumi is fraught from the beginning, but her birth mother holds the key to the information she needs to find the other half of her DNA. Ito meets

Yumi when and where the latter deems convenient New Jersey, California, a small Midwestern town; in



This cover image released by Mad Creek Books shows "I Would Meet You Anywhere" by Susan Kiyo Ito.

Associated Press

a house, a hotel, a hospital. And Ito would meet her anywhere. In the process of finding her birth parents and piecing together her origins, Ito explores the theme of family and what it means to occupy the various roles within it pondering the symmetry in the first 17 years she spent living with her mom, Kikuko, taking care of her to the last 27 years of her mom's life when their roles reversed. Meanwhile, Yumi flits in and out of the story, leaving the impression of her taking up more space than her physical presence.

Ito is left wondering about the reproductive choices that have shaped her life, starting with her conception. After all, what choice

did Yumi have? Her family had started over with nothing after the United States forced them into internment camps, along with an estimated 120,000 other Japanese Americans and Japanese nationals. There aren't many things Yumi refuses to talk about, but these topics are frustratingly the most important ones, big question marks that threaten to burn answerless into oblivion.

Unlike Yumi, the author is totally open about her thoughts, feelings and experiences. Ito's prose follows her mood; the default of easy conversational writing becomes stilted when she's upset, flowing when she's hopeful. Part 2 ends in a burst of poetry disguised

as prose, an astounding compilation of similes and squishy adjectives that perfectly capture a feeling that rests right on the periphery of language. It's an absolutely surreal moment of her life described the only way one can truly capture such a confluence of happenstance: with uncanny poetic prose that verges on nonsense, if it weren't so utterly fitting.

"I Would Meet You Anywhere" is breathtaking. Like a master quilter, Ito is able to find the patterns and fit them together in a beautiful, cohesive story that's balanced and satisfying, working in tandem to create a blanket of meaning enshrouding an entire life, plus some. □

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Caps are one of the NHL's hottest teams. Their penalty kill is a big reason why

By **STEPHEN WHYNO**

AP Hockey Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. (AP)—The vibes around the Washington Capitals are immaculate right now, with the wins finally flowing after a rough start. They're just not coming the way anyone expected.

Alex Ovechkin has scored just five times, the team's once-feared power play is last in the NHL and only the lowly San Jose Sharks have fewer goals. Yet the Capitals have won four in a row and eight of their past 10 games.

"We're going into each game expecting to win," top center and leading goal-scorer Dylan Strome said. "This group is just finding ways to win, and we're kind of believing in ourselves more and more."

That belief and a surprising run to second place in the Metropolitan Division comes from a combina-

tion of strong goaltending, timely scoring and young players producing. But the biggest factor in this run has been Washington's penalty kill that's a perfect 23 of 23 over this span. The Capitals haven't allowed an opponent to score a power-play goal since Oct. 24.

"It's just repetition," penalty-killing forward Beck Malenstyn said. "The penalty kill is huge for that: being able to put yourself in similar scenarios over and over again and understanding what works and what doesn't work. The more you see, the more you can make those adjustments and read and react."

When first-year coach Spencer Carbery watches his PK from the bench, he sees each player reacting the same way every time when the puck moves around the ice.

"That tells you that they're just so dialed in with being

on the same page with their reads and where the next person needs to pressure, where they go, I move here, he moves there and it's moving seamlessly," Carbery said. "It just looks like everybody's on the same page from a structure standpoint."

Carbery and goalie Charlie Lindgren credit assistant coach Scott Allen's preparation, in particular pre-scouting opponents and noticing tendencies. Having an idea what opposing power plays are going to do has allowed forwards to be aggressive in passing lanes to break up opportunities.

"A power play, it's the five best players on the ice for the opposing team, and I think our guys have been doing a really good job at just disrupting them, making it hard for them, not giving them much time and space," Lindgren said.



Washington Capitals goaltender Charlie Lindgren (79) makes a save against the New Jersey Devils during the second period of an NHL hockey game Friday, Nov. 10, 2023, in Newark, N.J.
Associated Press

Not taxing penalty killers has helped: The Capitals are the third-least penalized team in hockey. It also doesn't hurt that the goaltending has been dependable and at times outstanding. Lindgren ranks third in the league in goals saved above expected, according to MoneyPuck.

com. Keeping the puck out of their own net has been essential, given the Capitals have scored just 2.47 goals a game. The biggest area of concern offensively has been the power play, which is 3 for 43 this season a 7% conversion rate and 0 for its past 23. □

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The Steelers kept waiting for Matt Canada's offense to take off. And now he's gone

By **WILL GRAVES**
AP Sports Writer

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Mike Tomlin kept waiting for the offense Matt Canada put together to show signs of life.

Signs of progress. Signs of the kind of dynamic play required to get where the franchise so desperately wants to go.

The signs never came. Not often enough or consistent enough anyway.

Not in 2021, when Canada and Ben Roethlisberger reached a frosty detente before squeaking into the playoffs. Not in 2022, when Mitch Trubisky and Kenny Pickett carried a game plan designed exclusively to minimize risk.

And certainly not this year, when the weeks passed and the progress Tomlin kept expecting to see never materialized amid a flurry of three-and-outs, field goals and narrow escapes largely orchestrated by the



Pittsburgh Steelers offensive coordinator Matt Canada stands next to quarterback Kenny Pickett (8) during the first half of an NFL football game against the Tennessee Titans, Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023, in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

defense.

By Tuesday morning, Tomlin had seen enough, firing Canada in a nearly unprecedented in-season move for one of the most stable clubs in the NFL.

Pittsburgh hadn't made an in-season coaching change at the coordinator level or higher since going through three head coach-

es in 1941.

Tomlin felt as if he ran out of options with the Steelers (6-4) ranking near the bottom of the league in every statistical offensive category ahead of a trip to Cincinnati (5-5) on Sunday.

"This is a result-oriented business and to be short, the improvements were not rapid enough or consistent

enough for us to proceed," Tomlin said.

Pittsburgh is 28th in points and yards, and Pickett's development has stalled in a season in which Tomlin expected the 2022 first-round pick to "kill it."

Pickett threw for just 106 yards in Sunday's 13-10 loss to Cleveland, including three straight incompletions on the Steelers' penultimate possession with the score tied. Pittsburgh punted and Cleveland rookie quarterback Dorian Thompson-Robinson guided the game-winning drive. While Tomlin said in the aftermath on Sunday he wouldn't "second guess" any of the decision-making, less than 48 hours later he jettisoned Canada and opted to split his duties between running backs coach Eddie Faulkner and quarterbacks coach Mike Sullivan.

Faulkner will serve as the coordinator, with Sullivan

— an offensive coordinator in Tampa Bay and with the New York Giants earlier in his career — serving as the play-caller.

Tomlin stressed he would not be "grading on a curve" and declined to think much beyond what awaits the Steelers on Sunday at Cincinnati.

"We're getting ready to play a football game and win this week, that is the only agenda here," Tomlin said. "(It's) not big picture and 2024 and all of that. This organization is not wired like that."

Maybe, but the Steelers also aren't wired to take such drastic action during the season either.

This, however, felt different. Pittsburgh hasn't won a playoff game since 2016 and the offense has been stuck in some sort of stasis for years. The Steelers haven't been in the top half of the league in yards or points since 2018. □

Transgender women have been barred from playing in international women's cricket

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Transgender women will not be allowed to compete in international women's cricket, the sport's governing body said Tuesday.

The International Cricket Council said the "new gender eligibility regulation," which was approved by board members, had been imposed to protect the integrity of women's cricket and was also made on safety grounds.

"Male-to-female participants who have undergone male puberty will not be eligible to compete in

the international women's game," the ICC said.

It added that the regulations would apply "irrespective of any surgical or gender reassignment treatment" players may have undertaken.

"The changes to the gender eligibility regulations resulted from an extensive consultation process and are founded in science, aligning with the core principles developed during the review," ICC chief executive Geoff Allardice said.

"Inclusivity is incredibly important to us as a sport, but

our priority was to protect the integrity of the international women's game and the safety of players."

The ICC said the rules would be revisited within two years to "align with the sport's evolving landscape."

Decisions to allow transgender women play at domestic level will be made by individual member boards, the body said.

The ICC also announced equal pay for female match officials regardless of whether they were officiating men's or women's games. □



Cricket balls and a bat is seen on the ground before the start of ICC Men's Cricket World Cup match between New Zealand and South Africa in Pune, India, Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2023.

Associated Press